DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 304 055 HE 022 221

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TITLE	Developing Successful College Writing Programs.
REPORT NO	ISBN-1-55542-131-8
PUB DATE	89
NOTE	254p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Jossey-Bass Inc., Publishers, 350 Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA 94104 ($22.95).
PUB TYPE	Collected Works - General (020) -- Books (010)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Certification; *College Faculty; College Instruction; College Students; Faculty Development; Higher Education; Institutional Environment; Organizational Climate; Program Development; Writing (Composition); Writing Across the Curriculum; *Writing Instruction; *Writing Skills
IDENTIFIERS	Minnesota Community College System

ABSTRACT

Writing instruction programs have become particularly important at American colleges and universities in recent years, but it is noted that most college faculties and their administrators need advice about providing useful help to the writing programs. An examination of how to develop successful writing programs is presented. Three sections are as follows: (1) examining the current status of writing instruction (improving the campus climate for writing programs, insights from research on existing programs, and strengths and weaknesses of approaches to teaching writing); (2) providing a basis for effective writing programs (teaching writing within the undergraduate curriculum, defining purposes and issues in the assessment of writing ability, and using tests for admissions, placement, and instructional evaluation); and (3) organizational, staffing, and teacher development strategies (establishing an effective writing program on campus, supporting, evaluating, and rewarding writing program faculty, preparing and certifying writing instructors for colleges and schools, and evaluating program effectiveness). Two appended resources offer an evaluation of the Writing-Across-The-Curriculum program at the Minnesota Community College System and guidelines for self-study to precede a writing program evaluation. Contains about 90 references. (SM)

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